

TO THE

MEMBERS

OF THE

MAGDALEN SOCIETY.

Fellow-Citizens,

IT is now about eighteen years since, through your liberality, a Magdalen Society was formed in the city of Philadelphia. The great object of this charity, you know, has been to provide a place of refuge for miserable and unfortunate females, who, having wandered from the paths of rectitude and virtue, are desirous of returning, but who, from the odium which is attached to their character, are unable to obtain employment, or even shelter in the families of virtuous persons.

The records of the Society show, that, of those unhappy beings, there have been admitted under its care, *a very large number*, of whom it is believed that one half, or perhaps two thirds, have been restored to virtuous habits, and several are now living witnesses of the benefit which, under the favour of divine Providence, they have received at your Asylum. A number of them have gone to "the house appointed for all living;" and among these were several who, on their dying beds, gave comfortable evidence that a blissful immortality awaited them.

The Managers consider it important that the Society at large should be informed, that, although the utmost economy has been constantly exercised in every department of the Institution, the funds have generally fallen considerably short of the expenditures; and it is a subject of regret that the patrons of this useful establishment are not more numerous, or that its funds should be inadequate to the important and highly interesting purposes for which it was instituted.

To the benevolent and reflecting mind, *the sum of two dollars annually* given to promote the objects of this Society, must be considered as a mite well bestowed; and we earnestly request our fellow-members of the Association, to exert their influence in endeavours to procure additional subscriptions.

The substance of the last annual Report of the Managers to the Society is annexed hereto, being as follows, viz.

The number of Magdalens in the Asylum	2	4
at the last annual Report, was	5	
Admitted during the year,	- - - - -	15
Total,	- - - - -	19

Of these, the Managers trust, eight have been hopefully reformed, and are now either living in a state of reconciliation with their friends, or are employed in habits of honest industry.

Five, it is true, left the house under less promising circumstances; but of the six that still remain under our care, there is, we think, good reason to hope well. Their deportment, though not fully expressive of that radical change of heart, which alone ensures a corres-

pondent change of life, and a steadfast perseverance in the ways of well doing, is nevertheless promising, and will not, we trust, disappoint the just expectations of this body. So that, upon the whole, there is no ground for discouragement, but the reverse.

But though there should be discouragements many, and disappointments many (and we confess there are some,) yet when we consider the worth of an immortal spirit, and what it is to be plucked from the high road to inevitable ruin, shall we not rejoice, and be encouraged to go on in our labours of charity and beneficence, so long as there is the least ground of hope, that even one such being shall, through our agency, be made a happy being?

He who made the human soul, and best knew its value, has set its estimate far above all material worth ; and thereby taught us, that no expense of wealth, time, or labour, to secure its safety, can be too great. And he has also enjoined it upon us, not to be weary in *well doing*. But, to snatch the forlorn votary of sin from the paths of ruin—to shelter and console the degraded outcast—to uphold to her view the sacred pages of truth—to direct the eye of penitence to the Cross of Calvary, where, alone, is pardon for the guilty—to inculcate the virtues of chastity, self-government, temperance, humility and benevolence, and to train to habits of useful industry, is not only to benefit the soul and the body of an individual, but to render an important service to society also. It is to return into its bosom a prodigal child—one no longer disposed to injure and offend, but to serve and oblige, and, as far as possible, to recompense and atone for past misconduct, by future rectitude and good behaviour. This has, we trust, in many in-

stances, been accomplished, through the agency of the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia, and these are the grounds upon which the Institution rests its claim to public approbation and support.

At their last annual meeting, the following Officers were duly elected, viz.

Right Rev. WILLIAM WHITE, D.D. President.

ROBERT RALSTON, Vice President.

WILLIAM ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer.

THOMAS MITCHELL, Secretary.

MANAGERS.

THOMAS LATIMER,

THOMAS SAVERY,

ALEXANDER HENRY,

PETER VAN PELT,

DANIEL JAUDON,

JONATHAN ROBERTS,

JAMES MOORE,

GEORGE WILLIAMS,

SAMUEL HAYDOCK.

By order of the Board of Managers,

THOMAS LATIMER, Chairman.

ALEXANDER HENRY, Secretary.